



# MONTEREY NEWS



September 2004  
VOLUME XXXIV • Number 9



Jean Germain

*Good thing he's a fireman: Pat Sheridan in action at the Annual Firemen's Steak Roast on July 31st.*

## The Town

### Grant Approval

On August 9th the Select Board and Police Chief Gareth Backhaus received the good news that the town's Local Preparedness Grant Program application for funds under the Department of Homeland Security was approved in the amount of \$12,820 to purchase a backup generator for Town Hall, a mobile repeater for the Fire Department and one for the Police Departments, and a multi-gas detector for the Fire Department.

### Smoke Detector Permits

Building Commissioner Don Torrico advised the board that per state law all smoke detectors connecting to an outside system require a permit from both the Fire Department and the Building Commissioner. Torrico also requested, and was given, permission to move his office to the Town Hall basement.

### False Alarms

Fire Chief Ray Tryon once again raised the issue of the amount of fines for false alarms (malfunctions of alarms tied into our central fire alarm system). At present, the first false alarm is forgiven, the second costs \$100, and the third \$200. If, subsequently, a faulty alarm is not fixed, the permit is revoked after 30 days.

### Telephone Pole Concerns

A public hearing was conducted with on August 9th on the petition by Massachusetts Electric and Verizon New England Inc. for joint pole locations and permission to lay underground cable under Hupi Road. Anthony Cruz of Massa-

chusetts Electric was present for the hearing. Director of Operations Maynard Forbes requested that marker stakes in the drainage ditch be moved back three feet from the traveled way, and Select Board member Michael Storch requested that poles too close to the road in several locations be moved back. Cruz said that Massachusetts Electric would do so, and there being no further objections, the board voted to approve the petition and signed the order. In another matter, Cruz agreed to comply with Storch's request to repair holes left by the utility company on Eton and New Marlborough Roads.

## New Town Counsel Named

Jerome J. Scully, who has been doing part-time work for Monterey since Hugh Cowhig retired last spring, has now been named new Town Counsel. Scully, a partner in the legal practice Hannon, Lerner, Cowhig, Scully & Bell of Lee, also represents Egremont, Lenox, Savoy, Sandisfield, and New Marlborough. He will be paid a flat fee of \$5,500 per year, which includes salary and all legal services except out-of-pocket expenses.

## Special Town Meeting

The Select Board has been working to schedule a Special Town Meeting to

get approval to add money to the 2004-05 town budget for the purpose of increasing the Building Commissioner and Town Counsel budgets, as well as the Tax Collector compensating balance agreement. At press time no date had been set for the meeting.

## Paving Fairview Road (cont.)

The planned paving of Fairview Road continues to be an area of some disagreement, even among town officials. On August 16th Fairview Road resident Bill Shein came to the Select Board meeting to express his concerns about the paving, including speeding and an increase in through traffic, other possible negative impacts, and drainage issues. Director of Operations Maynard Forbes said that the speeding issue would be addressed by the Highway Department's posting a speed limit of 25 m.p.h.; he also pointed out that the highway crew is having to redo the road for the third time this year. The Select Board addressed the second issue by advising that only a small portion of the road is to be paved, to the first house on the right. The Highway Department has hired an engineering firm to design a drainage plan, but drainage concerns and the necessity of paving the road at all continue to be hot-button topics.

lated to LakeFest. The Select Board has worked diligently for the town to support this important event, clearing the way for Monterey to assume legal responsibility for the event, including the fireworks, in cooperation with Friends of Lake Garfield (formerly Lake Garfield Association). However, the board advised that the Police Department cannot help with parking.

Friends of Lake Garfield is unincorporated and has been unable to obtain adequate insurance to cover LakeFest activities, but the group will continue to contribute funds sufficient to cover the cost of the event. Town Accountant Barbara Gauthier is establishing a separate LakeFest account so that the Friends group can deposit monies from fund-raising.

The town is blessed to have so many seasonal events, from the Fire Department Steak Roast to the Bidwell House Gala, the Hatchery Lobster Fest, LakeFest, and the Cultural Council Shindig (at the Firehouse pavilion from 6 to 11 p.m. on Saturday, September 4). Many thanks for all the hard work to the individuals who make them happen.

On Monday, September 6th, Labor Day, Town Hall will be closed; there will be no meetings.

— George Emmons

**Peter S. Vallianos  
Attorney at Law  
528-0055**

General practice includes real estate purchases, sales, family transfers and transfers in trust, zoning, land use matters, conservation restrictions, landlord-tenant; wills, probate; commercial law.

\*\*\*

I will meet with you at your home in Monterey.

The Monterey News is published monthly under the auspices of Monterey United Church of Christ, Monterey, MA 01245.

## Fests

For the past months, LakeFest Coordinator Janet Cathcart has been a regular participant at Select Board meetings re-

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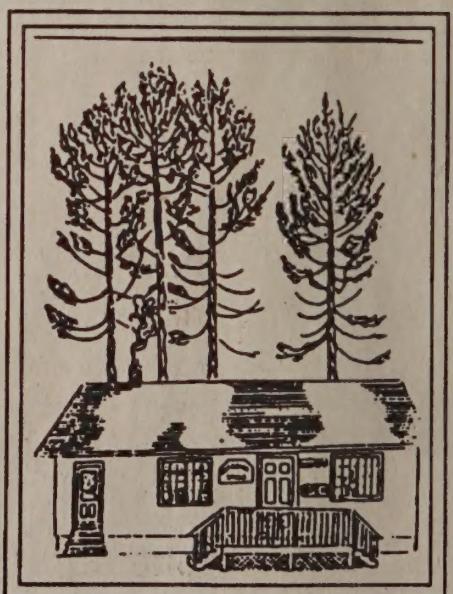
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## New Voting Requirements under Help America Vote Act

There are new requirements under the "Help America Vote Act" (HAVA)—a Federal law signed into effect in November of 2002. We must ask all voters who registered here after January 1, 2003, but were previously registered in another state, for identification at the polls. Please bring some form of ID with you when you go to the polls on September 14 to vote in the primary or in the presidential election in November.

Those wishing to express solidarity with the voters who must show ID are also welcome to be carded at the polls. This group of voters includes all voters who registered in Massachusetts prior to January 1, 2003. It therefore includes those who subsequently switched their place of voting in Massachusetts to Monterey from another Massachusetts town. They are not required to show ID at the polls.

Once you have shown ID at an election, you are thereafter not required do so in the Commonwealth.

Our next hurdle under HAVA: one touch screen machine for the disabled at each polling place by March 2005. Monterey is holding out for a touch screen that prints a paper record. As is the case at present, all voters who generate an inaccurate record of their vote will be allowed to ask for a replacement ballot. Up to three spoiled ballots are allowed per person in any election.

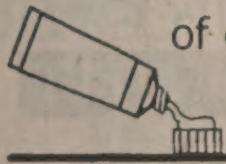
— Barbara Swann, Town Clerk



*It was a month of feasts and fests in Monterey. Above: Firemen's Steak Roast. Below: Hatchery Lobster Fest. (Photos by Edie Ross)*

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## Shindig! Saturday, September 4

The Monterey Cultural Council invites you to a Shindig! Please join us on Saturday, September 4, at the Firehouse Pavilion for a night of community music and dance. Admission is free. Bring your Labor Day visitors of all ages.

**6:00 p.m.:** Potluck supper with music by Joel Schick (6:00, blues originals) and Anson Olds (6:30, folk & fiddle). Here are some guidelines for what to bring: Last names beginning with A-E, appetizers/snacks; F-K, main dish/casserole; L-Q, salad; R-Z, dessert. Of course, bring what you are inspired to prepare if your specialty falls outside these suggestions! We will provide, with assistance from the Monterey General Store, beverages, paper goods, and snacks for the evening.

**7-8:15 p.m.:** Contra and square dance with a community band and veteran caller Joe Baker. All dances taught, easy to learn traditional dancing, all ages and levels of dance experience welcome.

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## Monterey Saves The Day! LakeFest Lives

With LakeFest 2004 on the brink of oblivion, the Town of Monterey stepped up and saved the day. Here's the scoop: LakeFest is the brainchild of The Friends of Lake Garfield (FLG, formerly, LGA, the Lake Garfield Association). This spring, FLG launched plans for a better-than-ever LakeFest to take place on August 28th . . . but, since LakeFest has grown to encompass more and more people and activities, some sticky issues surfaced that could have sunk LakeFest 2004. Looming largest was the matter of insurance—or, more specifically, the lack thereof. FLG searched for a solution as

Musicians who want to be part of the band please call Joe Baker at 528-9385.

**8:15-8:45 p.m.:** Concert by Monterey Youth—singers and instrumentalists.

**9:00-11:00 p.m.:** Boogie! Music by Three For All, a local R&B band featuring Monterey's own Lanny Lanoue (drums, vocals), joined by Sammy Brown (guitar, keyboard, vocals) and Trevor Young (bass). Come Rock!

Wear your dancing shoes, have fun with your neighbors! See you there.

the calendar pages flew by . . . June, July, half of August . . . the days swindled down to a precious few (as the song says) with no solution in sight. It was beginning to look like there would be no LakeFest, no joy in Monterey.

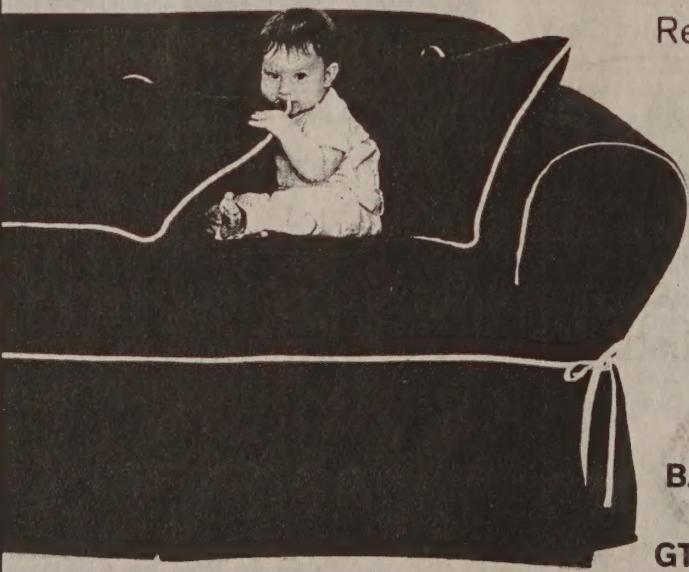
[Trumpet Fanfare] To the rescue comes your Monterey Select Board. What has become a town-wide event was sponsored and managed by the town—and covered by the town's insurance. The Select Board asked Janet Cathcart (FLG President) to be the LakeFest Coordinator, working with the Select Board, the Highway, Police, and Fire Departments, Park Commission, and others to pull everything together. FLG donated funds raised for LakeFest to the Town LakeFest Event Fund. Our wonderful and loyal Monterey business community also stepped up to contribute to this fund to make sure all the things we've come to know and love about LakeFest would happen this year.

The weatherman also came up big, delivering the summer's most sterling Saturday. (A brief sprinkle just before the fireworks did little to dampen spirits.)

So, after all the trials and tribulations, LakeFest 2004 turned out to be a grand success. Thanks to all who made it happen. Details and photos in next month's Monterey News.

— Hy Rosen

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## Thanks for the Fireworks

THANK YOU! to Monterey Businesses for their Generous Support of the LakeFest Fireworks.

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## Candidate Forum for Democratic Primary

The Democratic Primary is scheduled for Tuesday, September 14th. The polls in the Monterey Firehouse will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

In order to cast an informed vote on September 14th you are invited to attend a Candidate Forum on Wednesday, September 8th from 7:00–9:00 p.m. at the Monument Mountain Regional High School Auditorium.

Candidates Capeless and Shugrue, running for Berkshire County District Attorney, will speak and answer questions. Also on the agenda will be the four people running for the Governor's Council. An explanation of the role and importance of this Council and talks from these candidates will be given.

Monterey is a member of The Southern Berkshire Democratic Coalition, which is sponsoring this forum.

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## Cultural Council Grant Deadline

The Monterey Cultural Council will be accepting applications through October 15 for the upcoming cycle of grants. Please pick up the application form from the Monterey Town Offices or download one from: [www.massculturalcouncil.org/applications](http://www.massculturalcouncil.org/applications)—look for the link to the Local Cultural Council Application. Please be sure your application and all supporting materials are at the Town Offices by 3 p.m. on October 15. Thanks, and good luck! We look forward to supporting many fine art, cultural, and scientific projects for our community.



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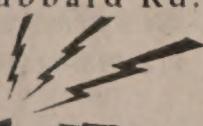
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## Caring for Your Septic System

The purpose of a septic system is to dispose of household waste water in a way that does not contaminate ground-water, wells, nearby streams, ponds or coastal waters. Waste water leaving your house contains solids, grease, dirt, chemicals, bacteria, and viruses, and needs a lot of cleaning before it can go into a lake or ground water. In your septic tank, solids settle to the bottom and grease floats to the top. The partially clarified water in the middle goes from the tank into the leaching field where it seeps through a layer of soil before it reaches the underground water table. The bacteria and microbes living in the soil help to purify the waste water.

To insure that your septic system is functioning well, there are some do's and don'ts to think about. Do have it inspected and pumped out every three to five years. Use your garbage disposal sparingly and practice water conservation. Divert roof drains and surface water runoff away from your leaching field. Do NOT use commercial septic system additives or pour hazardous household chemicals, cooking oil, fat, or grease down your drain. Don't drive or park over any part of your septic system and don't plant shrubs or trees over it as roots may clog or damage your lines or leach field.

Caring for your septic system is a

## Green Corner Good Grief, Is It Raining Again?

Remember when June was associated with sunshine? Or when the dog days of August made the lake the place to be? Climate data shows that the Northeast is experiencing more rain. What's up? Imagine a pot of water in the sun. The water molecules at the surface receive a little more heat than those beneath them. This energy causes those molecules to escape into the air. This process of evapo-

very good way to protect your house as an investment. Title 5 of the State Environmental Code requires inspection of your system prior to selling your house. Systems that fail must be upgraded or repaired. If you are interested in having your septic tank pumped, Ketchen Pumping & Excavating (413-243-3023) will do it for a reduced price of \$200 if you team up with another customer. This price is for a 1000 gallon or smaller tank, and you must provide access to the tank cover. There is an additional charge for locating the tank and/or digging. Other contractors may be willing to match or better this offer.

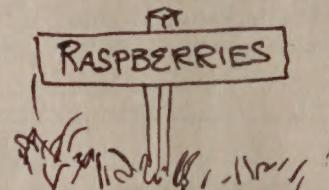
— Friends of Lake Garfield

*Adapted from "Septic Sense" a brochure put out by the UMass Extension..*

ration and resulting precipitation increases as temperatures rise.

Since the Industrial Revolution, temperatures have risen as greenhouse gases accumulate in the atmosphere. Carbon dioxide, a by-product of burning fossil fuels, stays in the atmosphere for 100–200 years. Climate change impacts that we are already experiencing include: more severe weather, increases in pest migration and disease, and rising sea levels. When these changes take place faster than species can adapt, it's considered a crisis. We are in such a crisis now.

Each of us contributes to the problem and can contribute to the solution by lessening our greenhouse-gas emissions. CET is a local resource for a variety of practical ways to do this. In the coming months, we will focus on local solutions. We welcome a dialogue with all readers. For more information contact, Raya Ariella, at CET, 413-445-4556, ext 17, or [raya@cetonline.org](mailto:raya@cetonline.org).



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## Recycle Those Sneakers

Is your house overrun with unwanted and worn out athletic shoes? Unsure what to do with them? Don't throw them out! The Center for Ecological Technology (CET) wants your old sneakers for recycling. Bring them to Tanglewood during the 28th Annual Josh Billings Runaround Triathlon on Sunday, September 19.

This year's Josh Billings kicks off CET's Reuse A Shoe effort. All brands of athletic shoes and sneakers will be recycled, but no boots or shoes with metal cleats or spikes. Your old sneaks will be turned into playgrounds, tracks, and athletic courts.

Reuse A Shoe is a partnership between CET, National Recycling Coalition, and NIKE.

More shoe drop-off sites will be established in the coming months, so look for them around south county. If you have questions, contact Ezra Small at CET, 413-445-4556, ext 17, or email [ezras@cetonline.org](mailto:ezras@cetonline.org)

When it comes to recycling, reusing, and reducing waste, at last, the shoe fits.

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## Oil Paint & Waste Oil Collections

Residents of Monterey and the other fourteen towns that form the South Berkshire Household Hazardous Waste Collaborative may bring used motor oil and oil based paints to the Great Barrington Transfer Station on Route 7 across from Monument Mountain High School on Saturday, Sept. 11, from 9 a.m until noon.

Acceptable materials are: unwanted oil paint, stains, paint thinners, and turpentine as well as used motor oil. Latex paint will not be accepted at any events. Empty or dried-up cans of latex paint can be disposed with the regular trash. Empty cans of oil-based paint, stains, and solvents can be disposed with the regular trash as well.

To participate, please preregister with CET. To make an appointment, or for information about what can be brought to the collection, go to <http://www.cetonline.org/Events/events.htm#Motor%20oil>, call CET at 1-800-238-1221, ext. 14 or 25, or email [amyj@cetonline.org](mailto:amyj@cetonline.org). Residents from communities that are not participating should call their city or town Hall for information about household hazardous product collections.

Eddie Ross



*At the Hatchery Lobster Roast*

## Karl Finger at Monterey Firehouse Sept 18

Karl Finger, a favorite local singer and leader of folk dances, will be leading singing and dancing at the Monterey Firehouse on Saturday, September 18, from 11 a.m. until noon. This program is sponsored by the Monterey Library and will be suitable for children and adults.

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## September Events in the Highlands

### Among Our Hills and Valleys:

#### Historic Barn and Farm Tour

Saturday, Sept. 11: Cummington,

Goshen, Windsor, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Tour five historic barns and working farms around the Bryant Homestead area as part of Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture's Farm Tour. The Bryant Homestead will feature barn-raising demonstrations, children's activities, and interpretive tours of the historic barn, and an extensive display of historic farm equipment will be available at Cummington's Kingman Tavern. For more information, visit [www.thetrustees.org](http://www.thetrustees.org) and [www.buylocalfood.com](http://www.buylocalfood.com).

Tickets are \$5 per adult, children free. Tickets/maps may be purchased at the Bryant Homestead on the day of the event.

For advance tickets, please send check, indicating number of people to: Bryant Homestead, 207 Bryant Rd., Cummington, MA, 01026. This event is cosponsored with the Highland Communities Initiative (HCI) and Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture (CISA).

### Hidden Habitat Discovery Hike

Sunday, Sept. 12: Savoy, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Join noted naturalist John Foster on a hike of discovery to one of the wildest and most scenic parts of the Highlands. The 12,000-acre Spruce Hill is a haven for bear, moose, ravens, fisher cats, and other secretive animals. Its fertile soils,

cradled in protective hollows, support abundant wildflowers, ferns, and other rare species that make it one of the most ecologically diverse areas in the region. This hike will incorporate John's unique knowledge of ecology, botany, and hydrology to pull the puzzle pieces of our natural world together into a fascinating story of adaptation and survival.

John Foster, founder of the New England Naturalist Training Center, is an expert naturalist with an entertaining teaching style and a depth of knowledge that will make this moderately difficult hike a great learning experience.

Cost is \$15 per adult, children free.

### Building Community Trails Seminar

Saturday, Sept. 25: Williamsburg

Grange, 9 a.m.–1:45 p.m.

This seminar will feature three panel discussions on how to begin designing and planning community trails. Topics such as locating a trail, deciding on allowable uses, finding partners, and recreational liability will be addressed, as well as tips on reaching out to landowners. The \$10 registration fee includes lunch and an afternoon hike at Petticoat Hill Reservation.

### Effective Communication and Conflict Resolution

Tuesday, Sept. 28: Goshen Town

Hall, 6:30–9 p.m.

Learn how to enhance your communication skills and ability to diffuse tense situations from experts at the Mediation and Training Collaborative. This will be an ideal workshop for board members, and for people who engage in community

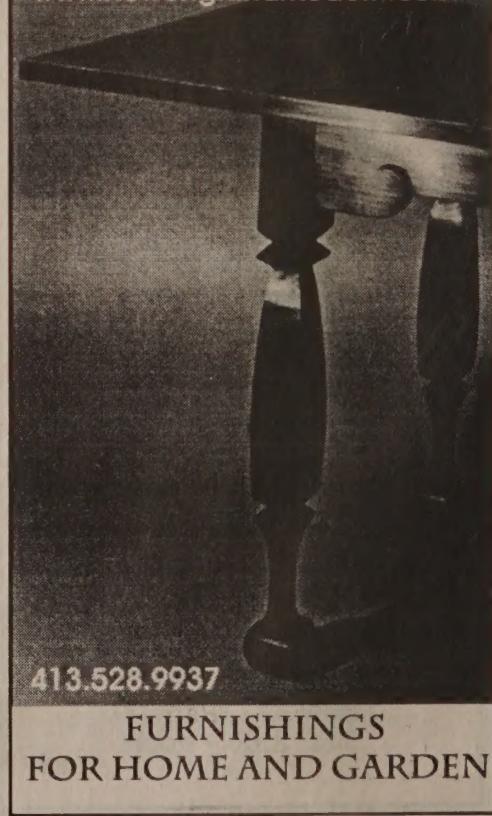
conversations about controversial issues or wish to enhance group decision-making and communication throughout town. Cost is \$5 per person, including refreshments. Please register in advance.

To register, please call Wendy Sweetser at (413) 587-0716 or email at [wsweetser@ttor.org](mailto:wsweetser@ttor.org). The registration fees for these sessions cover the costs to offer the workshops, however, if the costs prohibit you from attending, please call and inquire about scholarship opportunities.

*HCI moved in mid-August, so our phone number has changed. The new phone number was not available when this schedule was made up, but is available on our website and by calling the old number.*



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## Literacy Network Offering New Tutor Training for Adult Learners

The Literacy Network of South Berkshire (LNSB), a free one-on-one adult literacy program based at the Lee Library, is offering a hands-on, five-session training for volunteers wishing to learn how to teach adults basic reading and English as a Second Language and help prepare our adult learners for the GED (high school equivalency exam). Given the diversity of our students, the Literacy Network has an increased need for new tutors.

Literacy Network Education Director Karen Shreefter noted there is a particular need for tutors to work with adults wanting their GED. According to a recent *New York Times* article, there is a nationwide trend with adult literacy programs seeing students in their late teens and early twenties needing a high school diploma, or GED, and the Literacy Network of South Berkshire is also experiencing an increase in this student population.

Shreefter stated, "In the last year, we have seen a 150-percent increase in the number of students wanting to get a high school diploma."

The training will be held five nights beginning Monday, September 7, and ending Tuesday, September 21, at a place to be announced in Great Barrington. All sessions are free and will run from 6 to 9 p.m. Space is limited, and those interested should call 413-243-0471 or email [karens@litnetsb.org](mailto:karens@litnetsb.org) to register or for more information.

The training begins with an orientation session on Tuesday, September 7, at 6 p.m. and will focus on the Literacy Network and "The Adult as Learner"; it will be led by Shreefter and Literacy Network ESOL Coordinator Judy Waters.

The training continues the following Monday and Tuesday, September 13 and 14, and will concentrate on learning disabilities, language and reading components, and how to teach reading. These sessions will be led by Literacy Network cofounders Zoë Dalheim and Peg Smith, who are specialists in teaching adults with learning disabilities and teaching adults how to read. Joining them will be Shreefter.

The final sessions, Monday, September 20, and Tuesday, September 21, will examine "Teaching English as a Second Language." The Monday session will

focus on individuals with little or no English and will be led by Waters. The Tuesday session will concentrate on those individuals with some English and will be led by ESOL Specialist Christine Polk.

Shreefter noted, "The primary qualifications for being a tutor are: patience, attendance at all training sessions, preparation for tutoring sessions, and a commitment to your student."

For over a decade the Literacy Network has trained almost five hundred volunteer tutors to work with adults in South County. Tutors and students meet at mutually convenient times and places in South Berkshire once or twice weekly, depending upon the student.

According to the Massachusetts Coalition for Adult Education, "Almost 45 percent of Massachusetts adults lack the educational foundation needed to achieve their family, community, and employment-related goals."

More information about the Literacy Network of South Berkshire is available at [www.litnetsb.org](http://www.litnetsb.org).



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Monterey Grange Ladies Degree Team, 1950. L. to R, Back row: Annette Neilson, Ethel Hughes, Ethel Humphrey, Mary Wallace, Margaret Hall, Ethel Warner, Helen Hasko, and Dora Burke. Front row; Marguerite Tryon, Dorothy Hall, Nina Tryon, Olive McKay, Alice Schaffer, Kathryn Eihorn, Velma Hasko, and Eleanor Kimberley. (With thanks to Eleanor Kimberley for the photo.)

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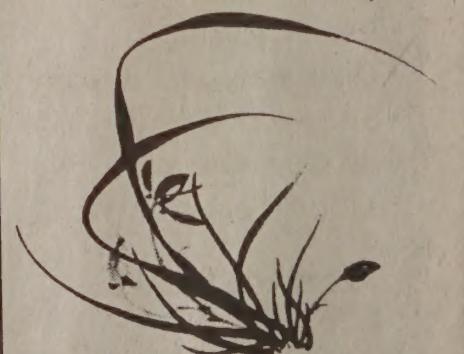
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Grandmother:  
Belgian seacoast (1929)

*Sit with me, please, please  
tonight!  
bring your old heavy purse  
full of comfort  
we can stay on the bench together  
and watch the sun set in the sea  
far away*

*people will amble by on the boardwalk  
and I will listen to their secrets  
and wonder  
you can fold your hands  
and think ancient thoughts  
while I smell the dark leather caverns  
of your bag and finger  
centimes, papers, folded hanky  
the smelling salts in the heavy little bottle  
keychain with the blue stone  
Grandpa's picture with the big moustache*

*You can hold all your light  
in that net of wrinkles  
but when you smile  
some spills out  
I'll squinch my toes —  
this too is love, and the ice cream man  
will push his jingling cart  
around the corner  
into the soft slanting light —  
bliss tastes like vanilla!*

*I know.*

— A. O. Howell

Running through Athens

*Long ago,  
statues of chiseled men  
ran and leapt —*

*blazing out youth  
in the arms of night  
feet galloping and  
hair riding high  
on golden flames  
where death seemed far away.*

*there still is a place  
between flags  
where colors melt,  
swirling a rainbow into  
the searing winds  
that beg  
for peace.*

*what does  
it mean  
to be on our knees  
for humanity?*

*to be broken by the sheer joy  
of nations dancing  
beneath our ribs, and  
hear hope  
echoing within  
our own thoughts.*

*when every country  
has the legs  
of a gazelle and  
cheetahs breath  
in every chest,*

*we may look up and see  
one flag  
mingling with the  
stars and galaxies*

*and dream ourselves awake.*

— M. Hamilton

## Cucumbers: On the Hedgerows, in the Jars

This is pickle time. In some other season, some other lifetime, we put seeds in the ground, slim pale ovals, and now prickly vines with yellow flowers sprawl across the garden paths. The vines are probably fifteen feet long, tough and tangled, and we have to tiptoe through them to find the green fruits. These "large fleshy berries" are called "pepos" and you could with confidence refer to all gourds, pumpkins, melons, and squashes as pepos.

Our garden cukes are not the only pepos on the scene. We in the Berkshires are blessed with the profuse and 100-percent-native wild cucumber, a showy annual vine of fences and hedgerows which has, for the past month, been swarming toward the sun to catch the energy needed to put out all those seed-bearing pepos.

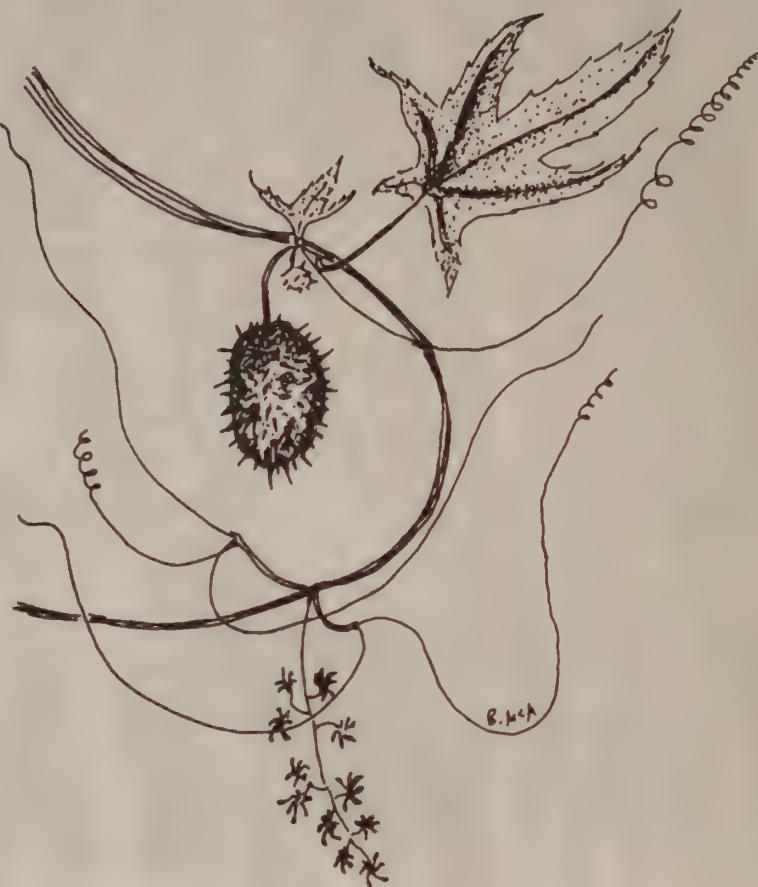
Montereyans bombarded by threats of invasive aliens have been asking me nervously, "What is that vine?" They may worry that it is some cousin of the much-dreaded bittersweet which has been knocking at our doors now for many years. I say, "Fear not."

"Wild cucumber" is one of those common names that pops up all over the English-speaking world. It is applied to at least three different species of pepo-producing squash vines in the U.S. Around here it refers specifically to *Echinocystis lobata*, but in some states,

Our wild cucumber, like the tame ones in my garden, sprouts anew each spring from a seed like a watermelon seed. In a wet year like this one, it grows rampant. The male and female blossoms grow on the same plant, and it is the male ones you will notice, little white flowers on a tall panicle or branched cluster. The female flowers, with ovaries that will develop into seed-bearing fruits, are less conspicuous and grow at the place where the petiole (stem of the leaf) branches out from the stem!

The fruits are growing fast right now, starting as teeny spiky spheres and turning into big fleshy elongated balls, still all prickly. Another common name for this plant is Balsam apple, and its Latin name means "hedgehog bladder." In Maine people call it Creeping-Jenny, Mock-Orange, or prickly cucumber.

As the fruits get big and heavy, the plant starts to die away. In a few weeks, the fruits will have spat out their four seeds, right on the ground where the parent plant grew. Many plants have seed dispersal plans which make sure the next generation will start up someplace new: the seeds travel on the wind or on your pants leg in a burr, or in the belly of a bird. Wild cucumbers disperse by sending out long vines and



such as California, wild cucumber is a perennial that comes up from a huge fleshy root. Another common name for the California plant is "man root" because that root can be as big as a person.

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dropping seeds all along the path of the vine. The empty pepos dry on the vine and hang all winter as pale papery lanterns, somewhat prickly. If you pick one you will see that the bottom of the lantern is burst, where the seeds dropped out, and inside there are two structures that look like little loofah sponges. Looking up inside the loofahs you can tell that each held two seeds up by the stem end.

Wild cucumbers have the most remarkable tendrils I have ever seen. They are long and waving, graceful and upwards curving. Their job is to grab onto some plant or post and hold up the vine as it surges onward. When a tendril touches a twig (or anything) the cells on the touching side react by shortening. Meanwhile the cells on the opposite side of the tendril, away from the twig, elongate. A curl is formed around the twig and then the rest of the tendril reacts in a similar way to make a tight coil, which draws the vine closer to the twig or trellis.

When you see the wild cucumbers swarming up the roadside bushes and

posts, remember that their time is short. They came from a little seed and in another month or so that's what will be left of them, little seeds ready again for next year, plus some dry, loofah-bearing lanterns. You can collect the seeds and start some near your back porch or even on a trellis to give you shade during the August dog days. I haven't even mentioned the sweet perfume of those delicate white blossoms. I have had some picked in the kitchen for a few days, and I keep thinking my teenagers must be back home with their lotions and bubble baths.

We have a lot to worry about these days, but for me plants are not at the top of the list. In fact, plants, especially wild cucumbers, give me hope.

— Bonner J. McAllester



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## Classical Guitarist Jason Kessler in Sandisfield

Jason Kessler will perform at the Sandisfield Historical Society (SHS) Meeting House on Saturday, September 25, at 5 p.m. All proceeds from the concert will be donated to the SHS Building fund extension project.

Jason has performed classical guitar concerts as a soloist, is a member of various ensembles, and has been a concerto soloist with orchestral members for the past fifteen years. He plays the lute, standard guitar, and a twelve-string guitar. With these instruments, he has played classical, jazz and modern music at the Monterey Meetinghouse, Unity Hall in Utica, the New York State Legislature, the Everson Museum in Syracuse, Saint James Church in Great Barrington, and in many other concerts.

Tickets are \$5.00 and can be purchased the evening of the concert. Reservations are advised and can be made by calling Marcia Ignace at 413-258-2898. From Great Barrington, take Route 183 south of Route 57 in New Marlborough (South of Gedney Farm). The meeting house will be on your right. From Rt. 8 and east, take Rt 57 for four miles, make a left onto New Hartford Road, and go South to South Sandisfield Road. Make a right onto South Sandisfield Road and go to Rt. 183. The meeting house is at the intersection.

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## Letter from Britain

To provide you all with a brief background of this article, I am going to give a short summary of my summer travels. This summer I spent two and a half weeks in Cambridge, England, as part of the Cambridge College Program. I had a mandatory class on British cultural history, which included field trips to famous places such as Stonehenge, Bath, the Tower of London, and Warwick Castle, to name a few. You could choose the other classes, and I chose conversational French because it had an optional trip to Paris following the program. The second class I chose was International Relations and Terrorism, which was incredible; I learned so much about the hot spots in the Middle East and around the world. We studied the mind-set of terrorists, ways to combat terrorism, and the history of these unstable areas. The final class I chose was journalism, and while it was not quite as discussion-oriented, it was fairly interesting; our end-of-program assignment was to write a newspaper article for an American paper as an

American journalist in Britain. So here it is, my "Letter from Britain."

When a foreigner, particularly an American, reads the British press, the extent of the coverage surrounding U.S. activities is startling. At times a reader could almost conclude that Mr. Bush certainly is the dominant one in the so-called Bush/Blair partnership. The 2004 presidential election is being covered very closely by the British papers, sometimes sadly, because the outcome will have a large impact on British foreign policy. While Britain has its fair share of conservatives, the number of people against the war in Iraq seems greater than fifty percent, whereas in the U.S. feelings seem more equally divided. The same trend goes for the two leaders.

When reading certain more liberal newspapers in Britain, it is surprising how radical the headlines can be and how critical the articles are of U.S. involvement in various countries around the world. In the UK, when details about the Iraq war are covered, usually Bush and Blair, as well as British and American forces, are mentioned; US activity dominates papers in the States. In the US, Blair is used to back up the Bush administration, here in Britain Bush's role is greatly expanded.

The two men have a powerful similarity. Both emit a charisma that has convinced people to trust them and helped

them survive harsh criticism over the war in Iraq. Recently Bush and Blair survived similar investigations, Bush the 9/11 commission and Blair the Butler Report, both emerged virtually unscathed. As the U.S. election approaches, Bush will have to play his cards carefully despite his money and connections. Blair has a slight advantage when British elections come up because many people have an aversion to conservatism and will vote for the Labor Party; should Blair decide to run again and that looks quite likely according to *The Independent*, which recently quoted him as wanting to see things through, he'll almost certainly win unless a challenger rises within his own party.

The Prime Minister has been receiving mixed reviews concerning his leadership. Some say he doesn't follow ideas through. One example is a possible ban on smoking in public places, which he mentioned in a speech, possibly to determine how it would go over, but there's been nothing more mentioned about it. Some of the people I've heard talk or write about his leadership have a tone that seem to convey concern about Bush's influence over the UK as much as over Tony Blair's personal opinion concerning the war in Iraq. The investigations on the reasons for going to war are all blaming failed intelligence, something the Bush/Blair alliance is using to smooth things over.

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Those in the US and Britain who are protesting against the war and the actions of their leaders are being fed the same excuses and reasoning—two leaders, one mouth. Mr. Bush knows he has a conservative ally in Mr. Blair; but judging from popular opinion both are lacking full public support. It seems that, for now anyway, Mr. Bush will continue to wage his “war” on terrorism and Mr. Blair will continue to be his faithful follower: good against all evil. It is refreshing to pick up a newspaper and read blatant criticism and acknowledgement that Blair is not really as independent a leader as he would like the public to believe he is.

When I return home with my stack of liberal papers, I'll be eager to compare stories. There will probably be very little in U.S. newspapers about Britain's role in the war, except as one of the few countries in the U.S.-led coalition. Other world events faithfully covered here in Britain, including horror in the Sudan and the NHS pulling out of Afghanistan, will probably be buried under more news of terror alerts. They all will be of less concern to a country whose government is obsessed with waging a war against a stateless enemy.

— Tarsi Dunlop

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Barbara Tryon looks over the menu at the Hatchery Lobster Fest.

## Sandisfield Apple Fest Sept 25

The Sandisfield Historical Society is sponsoring their “Annual Apple Fest” to benefit the building fund. This event will take place on Saturday, September 25, 2004, at the South Sandisfield Meeting House on Route 183 in South Sandisfield from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Just take Route 183 South of Route 57 in New Marlborough or follow the signs via New Hartford Road on Route 57 in Sandisfield.

This will be a fun time for adults and children. The main feature will be the sale of apples and pumpkins. There will also be household items for sale, a raffle

for gift certificates around town and other items, food items and homemade baked goods for sale, children's games and activities, a penny auction, and a silent auction.

Be sure to put this date, September 25th, on your calendar and come down to the meeting house to join us for this fun event. Hope to see you there.

We thank you for your support at the very successful August fair. With each event, we get closer to our fund-raising goals, needed for the extension, which will contain indoor plumbing and a modest kitchen. For further information call Norton Fletcher at 413-258-4520.

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## Annals of Monterey Steamboat on Lake Buel

In the Centennial year of 1876 the Deerstine brothers, James and Peter, who operated a machine shop in Hartsville, set to work on building the boat shown. William B. Gibson, a lumber man supplied the lumber for the boat and became the largest stockholder in the little so-called corporation. The Steamer gradually took shape the following spring and

was launched during the summer, from Gibson's Grove.

The steamer was constructed on the catamaran style with a double hull and a paddle wheel at the stern in between the two hulls. The steam power was supplied by a wood burning furnace and boiler, and it took a few hours steady firing to build up a steam head sufficient to move the paddle wheel. The steamer drew so much water that it could only move down the center of the lake and then only at a rate of about five miles an hour. The

## New Trail Opening Saturday, Sept 4.

A grand opening for "Bob's Way," a trail honoring Bob Thieriot's contribution of the land to the Berkshire Natural Resources Council, with "Cathcart Crossing" to "Dave's Bench" in memory of Dave Cathcart, will be held on Saturday, September 4. There will be a reception at the trailhead on Route 23, across from Mt. Hunger Road, from 1 to 3 p.m. Everyone is invited.

regular run was from Gibson's Grove to Turner's Landing.

However, the Steamer was lots of fun and sailed down the lake with quite a flourish. On its initial trip the band was on the top deck and played vigorously. Fifty to seventy-five passengers could be accommodated on board, and had the steamer been able to go faster, it would have presented quite a triumphal passage. The catamaran operated for about ten years until one fateful day, when it went up in a blaze of glory at Turner's Landing.

*From Berkshire County Eagle, May 20, 1880, reprinted in the Monterey 100th anniversary booklet, 1947*

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## Remembering Mary Thorn

Mary P. Thorn, 81, of Sarasota, Florida and Monterey, died August 18, at home. She was born in Parkersburg, West Virginia, on March 27, 1923, daughter of W. M. and Anna H. Jones Parker. She graduated from Stratford School in Danville, Virginia, class of 1939, and graduated from the School of Practical Arts in Boston, class of 1941, and in 1943 from Ringling School of Art in Sarasota, Florida.

She moved to Monterey in 1947 and to Sarasota in 1980. From 1980 on, she summered in Monterey. She worked at the former V.N.A. Thrift Shop in Great Barrington and was a Girl Scout troop leader in the 1970s in Monterey. She was a member of the United Church of Christ Monterey, and did the flowers for the church in the summer. Mary was also a member of the Presbyterian Church of the Covenant in Sarasota and manager of their thrift shop. She was a member of the First Resistance Chapter D.A.R. of Great Barrington and the National D.A.R., she helped organize The Children of the D.A.R., Dorothy Deming Chapter, in Great Barrington. She was a member of the Great Barrington Garden Club, Monterey Historical Society, Bidwell

House, Colonial Dames Society, Ancient and Honorable Artillery Society, and the Ringling Chapter of the American Business Women's Association of Sarasota. She was a former member of the Parkersburg Fine Arts Center, which she joined in 1946.

She enjoyed archery, travel, and watching television, especially Virginia Tech football games. Her husband, Paul E. Thorn, whom she married in West Virginia on January 1, 1947, died on July 27, 1990.

She leaves four sons, Thomas and Jane Thorn, of Monterey, Paul M. and Martha Thorn, of Annapolis, Maryland, John C. Thorn, of Plainfield, Connecticut, and William H. and Collette Thorn of Germantown, Maryland; two daughters, Anna and Dale Duryea, of Monterey, and Elizabeth M. Thorn and Glen Bergman, of Braintree, Massachusetts; 11 grandchildren, Jessica, Amanda, Samuel, John Jr., Sherry, Charles, William, and David Thorn, and Penny, Raymond, and Jason Duryea; four great-grandchildren, Heather, Corra, Bryce, and Allysa; and a former daughter-in-law, Peggy.

Expressions of sympathy in Mary's memory may be made to the Southern Berkshire Visiting Nurse Association or to Hospice Care in the Berkshires, c/o Birches-Roy Funeral Home, 33 South St., Gt. Barrington, MA. 01230.

## Remembering John S. Pizzichemi

John S. Pizzichemi, 65, of Largo, Florida, died at home. He was a former chairman of the Monterey Board of Selectmen.

Born in Fossato di Vico, Italy, son of Joseph and Teresa Pizzichemi Pizzichemi, he moved to Largo in 1976.

Mr Pizzichemi was a master electrician for 45 years.

He was a member of Seminole (Florida) Assembly of God Church.

A sculptor, he restored several statues for the Historical Society of St. Petersburg, Florida. He was also a stonemason and enjoyed welding, wood carving, wine making, gardening, and raising farm animals.

He and his wife, the former Yvonne Cooney, were married fourteen years.

Besides his wife, he leaves two sons, Remo Pizzichemi of Wales and John Pizzichemi of Brooklyn, N.Y.; three daughters, Andreana Perkins of Springfield, Agnes Bourque of Monterey, and Monika Pizzichemi of Canaan, N.Y.; a brother Anthony Pizzichemi of Medford, N.Y.; two sisters, Antonietta Cividino of St. Petersburg and Maria Fratine of Rome, and seven grandchildren.

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## Remembering A. Wilbert Koivisto

A. Wilbert "Bill" Koivisto, 86, of Salt Lake City, Utah, and a summer resident of Lake Garfield died on July 18 in Salt Lake City.

Born in Calumet, Michigan on December 13, 1917, son of Gusti and Ali Hataanpaa Koivisto, he was a graduate of Burr and Burton Seminary in Manchester, Vermont and Pace University in New York City, where he received a bachelor's degree in accounting.

He was a lieutenant in the Army Air Force during World War II, serving as a navigator on a B-24 with the "Ruff Knights" stationed in Saipan. He flew in forty-four missions.

Mr. Koivisto was employed by the Newport Restoration Foundation as a certified public accountant, retiring in 1982. He enjoyed life on Lake Garfield, fly-fishing, and gardening.

His wife, the former Eine S. Warjo, whom he married on September 13, 1953, died June 11, 1993. He leaves two daughters, Ellen Fletcher of Glen Ridge, New

Idie Ross



Roger the Jester, caught in the act at the Firemen's Steak Roast.

Jersey, and Lake Garfield and Susan LaMarre of Salt Lake City, Utah. In addition, he leaves three grandchildren, Brendan and Claire Fletcher, and James LaMarre.

A Committal Service was held on July 23 at Corashire Cemetery. A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, September 4, at noon at Saint Paul's Episcopal Church in Otis. The church is located at the intersection of Routes 8 and 23. The Reverend Arthur J. Monk, a longtime summer resident and friend of the family, will conduct the service. Family and friends are invited to attend.

## Contributors

We are most grateful to the following readers for recent contributions to support the *Monterey News*. Thanks, folks.

Roma Foreman  
Donald Victor  
Ann Canning  
Deborah Bauman  
Allan & Nancy Ratner  
Bonnie Campeglio  
Terry & Monica Webb  
Susan Sellew  
Ed Dunlop  
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## Calendar

**Every Monday (exc. holidays):** Select Board meeting, 8:30 a.m.-noon, Town Offices.

**Every Saturday:** Torah Group meets.

**Saturday, September 4:**

Bob Thieriot Trail dedication at 1 p.m. at trailhead on Rt. 23 across from Mt. Hunger Rd. Refreshments served 1-3 p.m. See p. 16 for details.

Monterey Cultural Council hosts a **Shindig** at the Firehouse Pavilion. Potluck supper at 6 p.m. followed by a great evening of dance and music! Free! See p. 4.

**Monday, September 6:** Labor Day, Town Offices closed.

**Thursday, September 9:** Free blood pressure clinic, 2:30-3:30 p.m., Town Offices, administered by Visiting Nurses Assoc.

**Sunday, September 12:**

Grandparents Day.

Bidwell House presents Heirloom Vegetable and Colonial Food Tastings from 1-4 p.m.

**Tuesday, September 14:** Democratic Primary at the Firehouse; polls will be open from 7 a.m.-9 p.m. See related articles, pp. 3, 5.

**Thursday, September 16:** Rosh Hashanah.

**Saturday, September 18:**

Bidwell House invites you to hike the Royal Hemlock Road with Richard Greene, 1-3 p.m.

Karl Finger will lead an hour of singing and dancing at the Monterey Firehouse, 11 a.m.-noon. Sponsored by Monterey Library. Everyone invited, suitable for children and adults.

**Thursday, September 23:** First day of autumn.

**Saturday, September 25:**

Yom Kippur

Square and contra dancing, 8:30-11:30 p.m., Sheffield Grange, Rt. 7, Sheffield. Music by Mountain Laurel. Joe Baker will host New Callers Night. All dances are taught, beginners and children are welcome. Adults \$6, children \$3. For information call 528-9385.

Sandisfield Historical Society presents classical guitarist, Jason Kessler in concert at 5 p.m. Tickets \$5.00. See story, p. 13.

Sandisfield Apple Fest from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. See p. 15 for more details.

**Saturday, September 28:** Full Moon

## The Observer

**July 26-August 25**

High temp. (8/4) ..... 85°

Low temp. (8/7) ..... 46°

Avg. high temp. ..... 73.7°

Avg. low temp. ..... 55.6°

Avg. temp. ..... 64.7°

Total rainfall ..... 9.78"

Precipitation occurred on 18 days.



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